



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

DAVE RICHARD  
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

November 03, 2017

Re: New Medicare Cards, formerly Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is readying a fraud prevention initiative that removes Social Security numbers from Medicare cards to help combat identity theft and safeguard taxpayer dollars. The new cards will use a unique, randomly-assigned number, called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), to replace the Social Security-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) currently used on the Medicare card. CMS will begin mailing new cards in April 2018, to individuals receiving Medicare with a deadline for removing Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards and issuing new cards with the MBI by April 2019. Beneficiaries who are newly entitled to Medicare beginning April 1, 2018, will have only the MBI, not a HICN.

Providers, beneficiaries, plans, and other external stakeholders will be able to use secure look up tools that will support quick access to MBIs when they need them. There will also be a 21-month transition period where providers will be able to use either the MBI or the HICN, further easing the transition. CMS expects the transition period to run from April 2018 through December 31, 2019. Beginning January 1, 2020, only the MBI will be used. Additional information can be obtained from the CMS SSNRI website using the link provided: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/SSNRI/Index.html>

Please ensure that all county staff are aware that Medicare beneficiaries will receive a new Medicare card that has their assigned MBI number beginning in April 2018. Local agencies should be aware there will be further updates provided regarding this change as well as changes for NCFast and other supporting automation systems. Please see the attached document which shows the current Medicare card and the new Medicare card with the MBI.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Operational Support Team at [ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Richard", with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the page.

Dave Richard

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

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Location: 1985 Umstead Drive • Kirby Building • Raleigh, NC 27603

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## Current Medicare Card

<b>MEDICARE</b>			<b>HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	
<b>1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)</b>				
NAME OF BENEFICIARY <b>JANE DOE</b>				
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER <b>000-00-0000-A</b>		SEX <b>FEMALE</b>		
IS ENTITLED TO		EFFECTIVE DATE		
<b>HOSPITAL</b>	<b>(PART A)</b>	<b>07-01-1986</b>		
<b>MEDICAL</b>	<b>(PART B)</b>	<b>07-01-1986</b>		
SIGN HERE →	<i>Jane Doe</i>			

## New Medicare Card

		<b>MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	
Name/Nombre <b>JOHN L SMITH</b>			
Medicare Number/Número de Medicare <b>1EG4-TE5-MK72</b>			
Entitled to/Con derecho a		Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza	
<b>PART A</b>		<b>03-03-2016</b>	
<b>PART B</b>		<b>03-03-2016</b>	